

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said central webs of said first and second portions are releasably securable together.

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said top and bottom webs are releasably securable to said decks.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said webs are releasably securable to at least one of said decks and each other by fastening means.

Claim 6 (original): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are threaded fasteners.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said pallet includes a plurality of holes for receiving each said fastening means.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are rivets.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said pallet is of a generally rectangular configuration having a front edge, a rear edge and two side edges.

Claim 10 (original): The pallet according to claim 9, wherein at least one edge includes a cover plate.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein at least one elongate bearer includes a stiffener.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein at least one bearer includes an end cap.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein at least one of said top and said bottom deck is of a profiled configuration.

Claim 14 (original): The pallet according to claim 13, wherein said profiled configuration are corrugations.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said pallet includes a sheet material secured to at least one said deck.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 18, wherein said pallet includes cavities for receipt of tines of a forklift or other handling equipment.

Claim 17 (original): The pallet according to claim 16, wherein said cavities are located on all sides of said pallet.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A metal pallet having:
a top deck of sheet metal;
a bottom deck of sheet metal spaced from the top deck;
at least two longitudinally elongated bearers each formed of sheet metal and secured to and extending transversely between the decks so that the top deck is supported on the bottom deck; and wherein

each bearer has a first and a second longitudinally extending bearer portion, with each portion being secured to said decks and extending separately transversely between said

decks and wherein each portion has a longitudinally extending top web secured to the top deck, a longitudinally extending bottom web secured to the bottom deck, a longitudinally extending central web extending generally normal to said decks, and longitudinally extending inclined web portions securing the central web to the top and bottom webs, each inclined web portion being inclined to the decks by an acute angle.

Claim 19 (new): A detachable-component metal pallet comprising:

a sheet metal top deck;

a sheet metal bottom deck spaced apart from and generally parallel to the top deck;

at least two elongate bearers, wherein the elongate bearers are positioned between the top and bottom decks such that they extend lengthwise parallel to the top and bottom decks, each elongate bearer comprising a first and a second portion extending lengthwise parallel to the top and bottom decks, where each first and second portion has a top web, a central web and a bottom web, and inclined portions connect the top web to the central web and the central web to the bottom web, where the inclined portions are inclined to the top and bottom decks at an acute angle;

wherein the first and second portions of the elongate bearers are aligned such that the central webs of each first and second portion abut each other and are oriented perpendicularly to the top and bottom decks, the central webs being releasably securable to each other via at least one fastener;

wherein the top and bottom webs of the first and second portions are oriented generally parallel to the top and bottom decks, the top webs abutting and being releasably securable to the top deck via at least one fastener and the bottom webs abutting and being releasably securable to the bottom deck via at least one fastener, such that the top and bottom decks are releasably secured together and the top deck is supported on the bottom deck via the elongate bearers; and

wherein the top deck, the bottom deck and the first and second portions are all configured to be able to be detached and replaced by replacement components.